

**PROGRAM POLICY COORDINATION WORKGROUP
MINUTES
October 14, 2004
1 West Wilson, Room B139**

Attendees:

Carol Amelong, BHCE/DHFS	John LaPhilliph, BHCE/DHCF
Shirin Cabraal, Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy	Mike McKenzie, DHFS/BHCE
Sara Edmonds, DHFS/BHCE	Carol Medaris, WCCF
Janet Even, DHFS/PPG	Sue Moline-Larson, LOPP
Jim Hennen, DHFS	Michelle Pauser, DHFS/Call Center
Michael Jacob, Covering Kids & Families-WI	Scott Riedasch, BHCE/DHCF
Kathy Judd, Dane County/State Training	Mike Wineke, Dane County
Donna King, UWO/DHFS	

Program Participation Grant Update

Janet Even

Janet updated the group as to Phase I of the Program Participation Grant, the ACCESS self-assessment tool available as of 8/16/04. Over 1400 people have now used the tool. Of these visitors to the site, 90% completed the entire screening. Of those who completed the screening, 85% were eligible for at least one program. During September, the scope of Phase II was determined and business requirements were provided to Deloitte. Phase II will add to the screening tool EDB-MA (including SSI Medicaid), SSI-related Medicaid, MAPP, MA deductible, Medicare premium assistance, Institutional MA and Community Waivers. It will also add WIC, Family Planning Waiver, school meals, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, and info on several federal and state tax credits. During the months of November & December 2004 and January 2005, planning for Phase III will begin. Phase III will include the online application, query and change reporting tools.

Reduced Reporting Update

Sara Edmonds

Sara reported on some data that has been collected regarding SMRFs. We are trying to compare the number of cases that previously closed for FS due to lack of review (and stayed closed into the following month) to the number of cases that are closing due to SMRF-related reasons. These numbers are very close, around 17%. Some revisions are being made to the SMRF. The Spanish version has been retranslated. Language at the beginning of the SMRF regarding what will happen if the SMRF is not returned has been made clearer. The section where earned income is recorded has also been clarified. Handouts of the new SMRF versions were given out. These numbers will be watched closely to make sure the SMRF process goes as well as possible.

Sara has been temporarily assigned to supervise the Central Application Processing Operation (CAPO) where SeniorCare applications are processed. The assignment is expected to last at least six months. She will continue to assist in a number of FS-related projects.

BadgerCare Update

John LaPhilliph

John LaPhilliph addressed the issue of the decrease in the number of persons eligible for BadgerCare over the past few months. Since January when BC enrollment peaked at nearly 115,000, almost 18,000 fewer persons are eligible for BadgerCare. There are a number of reasons why this could be occurring as several changes to the program have been implemented this year. Policy changes earlier in the year increased the premium from 3% to 5% of a family's income. In May, the Employer Verification Form (EVF) process started, making it mandatory that income and health insurance be verified prior to the eligibility determination. According to Mike Wineke, some

larger corporations are not willing or quick to fill out these forms and eligibility is terminated or denied.

Among the findings so far is that the number of BadgerCare recipients terminated because of the EVF forms accounts for only a fraction of the decline in the number of eligible persons. A much larger share of the declining enrollment is a decrease in the number of persons moving from Medicaid eligibility to BadgerCare. This may be due in part to the EVF's, or it may be an indicator of the economy getting worse. These numbers are very preliminary and will take some work to see more clearly why this decrease is happening. The DHFS Office of Strategic Finance is doing some research to gather info from customers who have lost their BadgerCare due to the EVF form. There are some changes that will be made to the EVF form that will be tentatively scheduled for November 2004.

MA Eligibility for Newborns

Scott Riedasch

There is a new process for adding newborns to the MMIS Eligibility file. Previously, when a child was born to a mother receiving Medical Assistance, the hospital or HMO would report the birth to the Medicaid Fiscal Agent, EDS. EDS staff would then certify the newborn as eligible, assigning the child a pseudo-SSN. They would send a letter to the mother, copied to her eligibility worker, instructing her to report the birth. The worker would then add the child to the CARES case matching the pseudo number to the MA ID on CARES. Unfortunately, this process resulted in many children being added to MMIS as two separate individuals, with two separate ID numbers. When this happens, the HMO will get paid two capitation payments for the same individual. The new process will involve EDS checking MMIS for the mother's MA eligibility, if the mother is not longer receiving MA, EDS will certify the child for continuous newborn coverage for the first year. If the mother has an open case, EDS will email the CARES Coordinator in the county where the case is open and the CARES Coordinator will refer the email to the appropriate worker for the worker to add the child and certify eligibility. This will all be done within one business day.

Funeral & Cemetery Aids Program

Scott Riedasch

Scott had a brief update on this program. In the new budget proposal, reimbursement rates would be going down for funeral services from \$1500 to \$1150 and for cemetery costs from \$1000 to \$750.

New Agency Co-Chair

Mike McKenzie

Sheryl Siegl has retired from Winnebago County and this committee will need a new agency Co-chair. Mike and Scott will address this at the IMAC meeting.

Next Meeting - Thursday, November 11, 2004 - 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at GEF III, Room 349.